Met Office

July 2017

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

At the start of July, a generally westerly flow brought cloud and rain at times but weak ridges of high pressure brought warmer and drier conditions at times for the south-east. It was a generally unsettled month, with only brief fine spells. The first half of the month was warm in the south-east but cool in the north-west, and it was mostly warm and sunny on the 17th and 18th, followed by a thundery breakdown. From the 21st it was wet and often quite cool, with some heavy persistent rain at times especially in the south, while in Scotland and Northern Ireland the weather was mostly bright and showery.

The UK mean temperature was 15.1 °C, which is equal to the 1981-2010 long-term average. It was slightly warmer than average in the Midlands, East Anglia and southern England, but slightly cooler than average in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Rainfall was generally above normal, particularly in the south, and many parts of central southern and south-east England had over twice the normal amount. Sunshine was generally near or slightly below normal over much of England, Wales and southern Scotland, but it was sunnier than average in Northern Ireland and in north-west Scotland.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 32.2 °C was recorded at Heathrow (Greater London) and Oxford on the 6th. A minimum temperature of 0.1 °C was recorded at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on the 1st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 19th, 105.4 mm of rain fell at St Keverne (Cornwall). A wind gust of 62 knots (71 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 28th.

Weather impacts

On the afternoon and evening of the 4th across parts of England and east Wales, localised flooding and lightning strikes caused some disruption to travel and schools. On the 6th, localised flooding and lightning strikes occurred in North Yorkshire and across East Anglia.

After a brief very warm spell on the 18th and 19th, a thundery breakdown ushered in an unsettled period of weather. Thundery showers pushed north across southern parts of the UK later on the 18th. This included a flash flood affecting the village of Coverack, Cornwall: fifty properties were flooded, a sewer pipe was damaged, and the main road into the village became impassable with rubble. Elsewhere there was loss of power in Plymouth as well as flooding of roads and some properties. In south-east England, roads and properties were flooded and lightning strikes resulted in some fires at businesses. On the 19th some roads in Wales were flooded; across eastern England there were travel delays due to flooding and lightning strikes, as well as fires due to lightning hitting properties. Across the NW of England there was some travel disruption due to floodwater on the A6 and M6.

From the 20th it turned unseasonably cool, wet and windy across the west and south-west, with flooding causing travel disruption on numerous roads. Trains between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier were disrupted by a tree blocking the line.

On the 22nd across the south-east, trains were delayed following a lightning strike, and there was flooding on the A40. Also a London to Chennai flight was hit by lightning in London air space. Across Dumfries & Galloway, there was of flash flooding, and some properties flooded as well as surface water causing issues for motorists. Scotland's National Air Show was described as a "washout" with a reduced display taking place. Multiple collisions on the M65 resulted in the road being closed for a time.

Heavy showers caused some flooding on roads in Gloucester on the 25th. On the 26th rain and strong winds meant some travel delays, and certain Hebridean ferries were cancelled. On the 29th ferries were delayed at Dover and some flights were delayed at Gatwick due to rain. The month ended very unsettled, and various events were cancelled including the Y Not Festival. Balham station was closed for a time due to flooding, and there were delays on the M25 due to surface water.

England diary of highlights

July was a generally unsettled month but it was often warm, especially in the south-east, until the 20th. There were brief hot spells with widespread thunder on the 6th and the 17th-19th. It was cooler from the 21st onwards, and there was some heavy persistent rain at times.

The mean temperature for July was 0.3°C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Rainfall was 145% of average, with central southern England particularly wet. Sunshine was 94% of average.

1st to 3rd

Rain over the south-east on the 1st cleared and it became bright or sunny generally before patchy rain reached western parts later. Early rain in the south-east on the 2nd cleared to leave a sunny day for most but it was cloudier in the north with a few showers. It stayed cloudy over the south-west on the 3rd, otherwise bright with scattered showers gradually dying away by evening.

4th to 10th

It was sunny and warm in the south-east on the 4th, with showers over western parts and rain in the north. Cloud and patchy rain in the north on the 5th, sunny and very warm in the south after some early showers. It was wet in the north on the 6th, while there were showers and thunderstorms for the East Midlands, East Anglia and the south-east, and very warm or hot in the south and east with 32.2°C reached at Heathrow, the month's highest. A bright or sunny start for the 7th before cloud and patchy rain filtered down from the north. The 8th was mainly dry and warm with good spells of sunshine, although there was more cloud across Cornwall and Devon. It was fine and again warm on the 9th with sunny spells soon developing, rain edging into Cumbria towards evening with a few isolated showers in the Midlands and East Anglia. It was warm on the 10th but with heavy showers across East Anglia and Lincolnshire later.

11th to 16th

The 11th became very wet with widespread rainfall totals of 20-40 mm across southern counties. It was much drier and brighter on the 12th, and Morecambe (Lancashire) recorded 16.0 hours of sunshine. A largely dry, bright day followed on the 13th with sunshine across Hampshire, Sussex and Kent before a band of showers crossed northern districts later. The 14th was mostly dry and bright before rain spread into the far north-west. It was generally cloudy on the 15th with rain or showers over most of the country. Cloudy in the south on the 16th, sunshine in the north spread southwards behind a band of showers across the Midlands.

17th to 20th

Cloud across the south on the 17th burned away, leaving all areas sunny and warm. Sunny and warm everywhere on the 18th before showers and thunderstorms reached the south-west early in the afternoon, and spread eastwards into the evening. Thunderstorms spread through East Anglia early on the 19th, clearing to leave most places dry before showers and thunderstorms reached western parts in the evening. The 20th saw heavy showers across Cornwall, but it was bright and largely dry further east.

21st to 31st

The 21st saw heavy rain spread east with 42.4 mm recorded at Pateley Bridge (North Yorkshire). There was further heavy rain through the central spine of England on the 22nd with 48.0 mm recorded at Carlisle

(Cumbria) but it was more showery with sunny spells across the south-west. The 23rd saw early rain clearing from the east leaving sunshine and showers, most of the showers through southern counties. The 24th was dry and sunny across the south-west with patchy rain or showers across eastern districts. Cloud across the north and east on the 25th broke up during the day, with sunshine and showers across the south and west. Rain across the west on the 26th spread to all parts, then it turned showery from the west, and the showers died out by evening. There was sunshine with frequent showers on the 27th, the showers turning thundery over the east coast by evening. The 28th started cloudy with rain or showers over most parts before turning very wet over the north from late afternoon and windy in the south with a gust of 71 mph recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight). There were showers across the north on the 29th, and more general rain over the south from mid-morning onwards. Sunshine and showers on the 30th, and the showers turned progressively more widespread, heavy and thundery as the day went on, particularly over the spine of Devon and Cornwall with 79 mm recorded at Okehampton (Devon). The 31st was another day of sunshine and showers with the showers heaviest and most frequent in the west.

Wales diary of highlights

The month started changeable with sunshine and showers, before turning warmer and more settled for a time. The second half of the month became increasingly more unsettled and cooler with frequent rain or showers.

The mean temperature for July was 0.1 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 131% of average and sunshine was exactly 100% of average.

1st to 4th

The 1st started cloudy, becoming sunny for a time before cloud and patchy rain passed through during the evening. It was sunny everywhere on the 2nd with showers reaching Anglesey by evening. It was bright or sunny on the 3rd and a few morning showers died out, then dry until rain reached Anglesey by early evening. It was cloudy with scattered showers on the 4th, but turned bright or sunny during the afternoon.

5th to 9th

It was generally sunny on the 5th although somewhat cloudier along the west coast. Sunny and warm on the 6th with temperatures reaching 27 °C in places sparking a few isolated evening showers. The 7th started sunny before cloud and patchy rain filtered down from the north, and it was warm with a top temperature of 24.4 °C at Usk (Monmouthshire). The 8th was mainly dry, with plenty of sunshine for most, but more cloud across western coastal areas, and it was warm again. The 9th started cloudy, with just a few isolated showers, sunny spells developing by the afternoon, but rain edged into Anglesey towards evening; remaining warm in the south-east.

10th to 16th

The 10th saw morning rain across western parts turn more patchy through Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire later. A wet day on the 11th with rain heaviest across the south coast, brighter and drier for Anglesey. The 12th was warm, dry and sunny throughout with 14.1 hours recorded at Valley (Anglesey). It was largely dry and sunny on the 13th before a band of evening showers passed through Gwynedd. The 14th turned dry and bright before rain spread into the north. Cloudy with patchy rain in places on the 15th, but brighter by the evening. Cloudy and wet in places for the 16th, but it turned drier and brighter from the north during the afternoon.

17th to 19th

Sunny and warm on the 17th after a cool start with temperatures down to 3.7 °C at Sennybridge (Powys). Sunny everywhere on the 18th with a high of 28.3 °C at Valley (Gwynedd), although cloud increased from the south in the evening with a few showers. There were thunderstorms and frequent showers on the 19th particularly for Anglesey and the north coast where Prestatyn (Clywd) recorded 48 mm of rain.

20th to 31st

The 20th was mainly bright, but a wet night followed with 34.8 mm of rain recorded at Tredegar (Gwent). It was cooler on the 21st with widespread rain heaviest through central and southern parts. Rain again throughout on the 22nd. The 23rd saw sunshine and showers, and it was wettest across the south. The 24th was dry, warm and sunny with 14.8 hours of sunshine at Valley (Anglesey). Sunny again on the 25th. It was wet everywhere to start the 26th, but the rain turned showery from late morning and died out completely by evening. There was sunshine mixed with frequent showers on the 27th. The 28th started showery before turning very wet from late morning onwards. It was generally cloudy on the 29th with isolated showers, and turned wet in the south in the evening. There was sunshine on the 30th, but with showers, becoming heavier and more frequent as the day went on. The 31st was another day of sunshine and scattered showers.

Scotland diary of highlights

July began with showers and occasional longer spells of rain, and it continued mostly cool and changeable during the first ten days. Short-lived ridges of high pressure brought some warmer sunnier days around mid-month. The last third of the month was predominantly showery.

The mean temperature for July was 0.4 °C below the long-term average. Rainfall was mostly near or slightly above normal but it was a very wet month in parts of the south-west, with 111% of average overall. Sunshine was 102% of average, and it was a sunny month in the north-west but sunshine was near or slightly below average in the south.

1st to 3rd

After a cool start on the 1st, with Altnaharra (Sutherland) falling to 0.1 °C overnight, the day was generally bright, but showers in the west moved eastwards during the course of the day. The 2nd was cloudy, with showers over central and western areas becoming widespread by evening and merging into longer spells of rain. It was bright or sunny on the 3rd with scattered showers gradually dying out by evening.

4th to 9th

Dry and sunny in the north on the 4th, wet over central and southern parts, the rain eventually clearing away over the Borders. It was sunny in the north on the 5th; cloudier conditions in the south spread to cover all areas by evening. The 6th had a wet morning; the rain cleared around midday, before showers developed over western and central parts. The 7th was mainly cloudy with a band of rain or showers from the Moray coast to Stranraer moving south-eastwards, and feeling warm. The 8th was cloudy with patchy rain across northern districts but sunny and warm further south. The 9th was cloudy, dry across the north-west and Northern Isles but with rain from Argyll and Bute to Aberdeenshire moving south-east throughout the day.

10th to 16th

The 10th was warm, but heavy showers developed across the Central Highlands in the afternoon. The 11th was showery again but also saw good spells of sunshine with 14.7 hours recorded at Tiree (Argyll). The 12th was very sunny, with Tiree recording 16.0 hours of sunshine, and largely dry. The 13th was bright and rather warm across the Shetland Isles before a band of showers spread east through most districts later. The 14th remained bright in the east but turned showery in the west. Wet for all parts on the 15th, particularly in the west, turning drier by evening. The 16th was bright or sunny with scattered showers.

17th to 22nd

Morning cloud on the 17th burned away to leave all apart from the Northern Isles sunny and warm. Sunny and warm for all on the 18th with a high of 27.4 °C at Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty). The 19th was sunny in the north-west, cloudy in the south-east, turning wet from the south-west by evening. It was mostly dry, bright

and warm through central parts on the 20th but wet through Galloway and across the Shetland Isles. The 21st was warm and sunny across northern parts with 14.7 hours of sunshine at Kirkwall (Orkney) but wet across the south and south-west with 32.8 mm rainfall at West Freugh (Galloway). Similar on the 22nd with rainfall totals of 20 mm or more across the south-west but staying dry and sunny across Caithness and Sutherland.

23rd to 31st

The 23rd saw morning rain move across the Central Lowlands and Border regions while the north-west stayed sunny and dry. The 24th was warm and sunny, especially across western parts, Edinburgh Gogarbank recording 15.3 hours of sunshine. It was bright or sunny across central parts on the 25th, but otherwise cloudy, with some light rain along the east coast. Wet for all bar the far north to start the 26th, the rain clearing eastwards but replaced by sunshine and showers. Sunshine and frequent showers for all parts on the 27th, the showers heaviest and most frequent in central and southern parts. More of the same on the 28th but with the heavier showers over the north with Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) recording 37.6 mm. There were showers for most on the 29th and it was particularly wet over the west. It was showery again on the 30th, and again wettest in the west. Sunshine and frequent showers on the 31st over all of the country.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

July began with a changeable westerly regime, but became rather more settled towards the middle of the month. The second half was again mostly changeable, and after a thundery breakdown around the 19th it turned cooler.

The mean temperature for July was 0.2 °C below the long-term average. It was a rather wet month with 151% of average rainfall. Sunshine was 120% of average overall.

1st to 7th

The 1st began bright but cool with a minimum of 0.8 °C at Katesbridge (County Down), but it clouded over with some patchy rain passing through, clearing in the evening. It was generally cloudy on the 2nd with just a few isolated showers. There was a bright start to the 3rd with a few isolated showers, then it was dry for a time before rain spread to all parts during the evening, Lough Fea (County Londonderry) recording 29 mm. It was very wet on the 4th with heavy rain slowly clearing and turning more showery during the day. Mainly cloudy on the 5th with light rain in a few places. Cloudy on the 6th with scattered rain or showers. The 7th was mainly cloudy with some patchy light rain.

8th to 16th

The 8th was dry with plenty of sunshine, though cloudier across the north at first, and it became warm. The 9th was a cloudy and wet day with rain moving eastwards, clearing the east coast by evening with showers following behind. The 10th was cloudy, and turned wet later across the south. It was mostly dry on the 11th and sunny in the north with 14.8 hours of sunshine recorded at Magilligan (County Londonderry). The 12th was dry, sunny throughout and warm with 23.1 °C reached at Castlederg (County Tyrone). A dry bright start on the 13th before a band of showers spread east across all districts. The 14th started dry too but turned wetter later in central parts. It was generally wet on the 15th with rain at times throughout the day. There were showers on the morning of the 16th, then it turned dry, sunny and warm during the afternoon.

17th to 21st

There was almost unbroken sunshine with temperatures generally into the mid-20's Celsius on the 17th, Killowen (County Down) recorded 26.5 °C and Aldergrove (County Antrim) saw 15.1 hours of sunshine. The 18th was another dry, bright and warm day. The 19th was very different, with rain or showers and thunderstorms persisting into the evening. The 20th was mostly dry and sunny. The 21st was cloudier but any rain was mostly confined to the north-east coast.

22nd to 31st

The 22nd started bright but turned showery through the afternoon, especially across Antrim. The 23rd was warm, sunny and dry. The 24th was dry throughout, and warm with bright or sunny spells. It was cloudy on the morning of the 25th, but bright or sunny by the afternoon. Rain cleared on the 26th to leave sunshine and showers, then it turned dry for a time before heavy showers and thunderstorms arrived in the evening. There was sunshine mixed with frequent heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms between the 27th and 31st with northern areas seeing the majority of the showers.

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Met Office